(iii) Concessional export credit with extended periodical coverage has been effected,

(iv) Refund of Service Tax in various sectors related to exports of goods, has been notified

(c) A Report of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) indicates that stagnation of exports in 2007-08 due to the unprecedented appreciation of the rupee, and the consequent downturn in textiles exports will lead to a loss of around 5.79 lakh potential new jobs. The loss in direct employment in the textiles and clothing industry will be to the tune of 2.72 lakh jobs The report of the CITI has not quantified any job loss that may have already occurred

Handloom weavers working as daily wagers

2631. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that handloom weavers of Varanasi and adjoining areas as per the latest report are leaving their profession and working as daily wages in different cities;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any estimate of weavers having left their profession and number of those living in distressed conditions,

(c) with the latest announcement of financial support to weavers in the budget, how many of them will be benefited;

(d) whether Government will approach the weavers who have left the profession to start up again and provide them long term interest free loans; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received from the State Government As per the information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are about 2.00 lakh weavers/ workers in Varanasi, out of which about 1.00 lakh weavers are engaged in weaving while remaining are engaged in allied activities.

(c) It is expected to benefit about 1.00 lakh weavers by taking 2 mega handloom clusters

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

MSP for mulberry, multivoltine and bivoltine cocoons

2632. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce Minimum Support Price for the mulberry cocoons and fix Rs 100 - per kg. for multivoltine cocoons and Rs. 1.50 per kg. for bivoltine cocoons;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard,

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?